12-12020-mg Doc 9575 Filed 01/29/16 Entered 02/01/16 16:34:16 Main Documlent

Bankruptey Case No.: 12-12020 (MG)
Page 1 of 17

jurisdiction due to a higher-level, federal court's review of pending litigation, and on equity considerations.

FACTUAL HISTORY

- (1) The Liquidating Trust's Omnibus Motion is appertaining to pending litigation in Martinez vs. USAA Federal Savings Bank, et al. from the U.S. District Court in Nevada (see U.S. District Court Case No. 2:14-CV-00567-RCJ-PAL) which is currently on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, (see Ninth Circuit Court Case No.: 14-16349). The causes of action in this matter pertain to the title and ownership of a certain real property located at 6408 Sea Swallow Street in North Las Vegas, Nevada, 89084 Assessor's Parcel Number: 124-20-811-016 (hereafter, the "subject real property"). Plaintiff Martinez is pursuing monetary damages, declaratory and injunctive relief against all Defendants, for alleged violations of TILA and HOEPA (15 U.S.C. § 1641, et. seq.); declaratory relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2201 et seq.; wrongful foreclosure (NRS 107.080 et seq.); fraudulent conveyance of real property (NRS 111.010 et seq.); making false/groundless claims or material misrepresentations concerning title on recorded documents (NRS 205.395(5) et seq.); slander of title (NRS 38.300(3) et seq.); quiet title (NRS 40.010 et seq.); and intentional infliction of emotional distress.
- (2) In the underlying Ninth Circuit Court case, Plaintiff Martinez alleged that Defendant *GMAC Mortgage*, *LLC* (hereafter, "GMAC"), has improperly and unlawfully, attempted to conduct several non-judicial trustee's sales of the subject real property, without acquiring any legal, equitable, and/or pecuniary interest in the subject mortgage promissory note and/or deed of trust to warrant non-judicial foreclosure, under Nevada law, (see generally *Leyva v. National Default Servicing Corp.*, 255 P. 3d 1275 Nev: Supreme Court 2011; see

(3) However, GMAC continues to claim to be the *current* Note-holder, holder-indue-course, and/or person entitled to enforce the Note, via an alleged negotiation and

22

sale/transfer of the Note, under Article 3 of the Uniform Commercial Code (hereafter, the "UCC"). Article 3 of the UCC is codified under Nevada law as NRS 104.3101-104.3605; and under NRS 104.3301(1)(a), a person entitled to enforce an instrument is "[t]he holder of the instrument." (See - Leyva v. National Default Servicing Corp., 255 P. 3d 1275 - Nev: Supreme Court 2011). It should be noted that the Nevada Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court in Nevada have both held that under Nevada law, a mortgage promissory note is considered to be a "negotiable instrument," (see - Birkland v. Silver State Financial Services, Inc., No. 2:10-CV-00035-KJD, 2010 WL 3419372, at *4 (D.Nev. Aug. 25, 2010)); and that any sale/transfer of ownership/enforcement rights to a given mortgage promissory note, that is expressly made payable to an identified party (e.g., the Note is expressly payable to USAA), must be negotiated by endorsement and transfer of possession of said mortgage promissory note, by the current note-holder (i.e., USAA), to the succeeding entity (i.e., either GMAC or GINNIE MAE as Trustee of the Securitized Trust), in order for a mortgage promissory note to be deemed validly sold/transferred under Nevada law. (See - Leyva v. National Default Servicing Corp., 255 P. 3d 1275 - Nev: Supreme Court 2011, "[n]egotiation requires transfer of possession of the instrument and its endorsement by the holder. NRS 104.3201(2)" - Italics emphasis in the original). The Note in this case, was not so endorsed by USAA (i.e., the original Note-holder) to GMAC (i.e., the alleged, succeeding Note-holder), in order for GMAC, or its purported servicing agent OCWEN, to initiate a non-judicial foreclosure action against the subject real property. Nor can GMAC or OCWEN, demand or receive any payments whatsoever on behalf of the current Note-holder, because neither GMAC nor OCWEN can demonstrate that either of them has an agency relationship with the current Note-holder and deed of trust beneficiary, in order to collect payments due under the Note; or to validly assign the deed of trust, "together

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

8

9

10 11

13 14

12

15

16

17

18 19

20

21 22

23

24

with the Note" to any other interested party; or to initiate a non-judicial foreclosure action against the subject real property, under Nevada law. (See - Bank of New York v. Alderazi, 28 Misc.3d 376, 900 N.Y.S.2d 821, 824 (N.Y.Sup.Ct. 2010), "the party who claims to be the agent of another bears the burden of proving the agency relationship by a preponderance of the evidence"; see also - Steinbeck v. Steinbeck Heritage Foundation, No. 09-18360cv, 2010 WL 3995982, at *2 (2d Cir. Oct.13, 2010), finding that use of the words "attorney-in-fact" in documents can constitute evidence of agency but finding that such labels are not dispositive).

GINNIE MAE, however, also claims to be the current Note-holder – by virtue of (4) an alleged sale/transfer of the Note on or about August 28, 2009, as part of the securitization process of the Note. GINNIE MAE declares the Note to be an asset of the Securitized Trust, and reports this claim to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (hereafter, the "SEC"), via the Bloomberg L.P. Professional Terminal - which the SEC uses to track the ownership of mortgage promissory notes that comprise the corpus of all mortgage-backed securities, in real time. The trustee of each REMIC Trust (e.g., GINNIE MAE as Trustee of the Securitized Trust), is required to declare the assets of each REMIC Trust to the SEC, via the Bloomberg L.P. Professional Terminal, under oath and penalty of perjury; and these representations to the SEC, by the trustee of a given REMIC Trust, carries the same weight as sworn testimony in a court of law. Nevertheless, this claim of ownership of the Note by GINNIE MAE is belied by the failure of USAA to endorse the Note to GINNIE MAE as Trustee of the Securitized Trust, or to any other co-Defendant, or interested party. Consequently, the Note was never validly sold/transferred by USAA to GMAC or GINNIE MAE as Trustee of the Securitized Trust, accordance with Article 3 of the UCC (i.e., NRS 104.3101-104.3605); nor was the Note sold/transferred to any other co-Defendant in this case. However, USAA received full payment

Running concurrently with the aforementioned events, a deed of trust was given (5) to USAA as security for the Note on or about July 28, 2009, in which the alleged beneficiary of said deed of trust is listed as co-Defendant Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (hereafter, "MERS") - acting solely as a nominee for USAA. However, on January 11, 2011 a purported MERS assistant secretary (i.e., "Anthony McLaughlin" who misrepresents himself as an "assistant secretary of MERS" when in actuality, Mr. McLaughlin was acting as an active employee of GMAC), executed and recorded in the Clark County Recorder's Office, an improper and unlawful Assignment of Deed of Trust from MERS, acting as a nominee for USAA to GMAC, as instrument number 201101110001535 (hereafter, the "MERS Assignment"). The MERS Assignment purports to assign the deed of trust encumbering the subject real property, "together with the Note," from MERS, on behalf of USAA to GMAC. (See - Weingartner v. Chase Home Finance, LLC, 702 F. Supp. 2d 1276 - Dist. Court, D. Nevada 2010, "First, MERS is not a beneficiary and does not have the ability to transfer the beneficial interest in a promissory note without more evidence of its agency in this capacity than being named as a nominee on a deed of trust."; see also - Bank of New York v. Alderazi, 28 Misc.3d 376, 900 N.Y.S.2d 821, 823 (N.Y.Sup.Ct. 2010), "To have a proper assignment of a mortgage by an authorized agent, a power of attorney is necessary to demonstrate how the agent is vested with the authority to assign the mortgage." (quoting HSBC Bank USA, NA v. Yeasmin, 19 Misc.3d 1127, 866 N.Y.S.2d 92 (N.Y.Sup.Ct.2008).) But as previously discussed, the Note

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

was never endorsed by USAA to GMAC, or to any other co-Defendant, (see – Exhibit 1). This fact alone renders GMAC's claim to be the Note-holder, devoid of any factual basis. Further, "Lisa Clark" acting as a purported, senior default specialist for OCWEN (which in turn, declares itself to be acting as the purported, current servicer for GMAC), executed an Affidavit of Authority in Support of Notice of Default and Election to Sell (hereafter, the "AA"), which was attached to the Notice of Breach and Default and of Election to Cause Sale of Real Property Under Deed of Trust, (recorded on August 15, 2013 as instrument number 201308150000693 in the Clark County Recorder's Office); but the AA is not only an infirm and invalid document, it is also a material misrepresentation on a recorded document, or false claim concerning the title to the subject real property, for the aforementioned reasons.

(6) Nevertheless, as previously stated, USAA received full payment for the Note from GINNIE MAE as Trustee of the Securitized Trust, as part of the securitization process of the Note, on or about August 28, 2009. But this unilateral transfer of the Note and subject deed of trust to GMAC (by Anthony McLaughlin who is one of GMAC's own employees), without a valid assignor is akin to GMAC stealing one of USAA's blank checks, and then fraudulently signing it over to GMAC. In order to accomplish this task, GMAC instructs one of its own employees (i.e., Anthony McLaughlin), to masquerade as a "MERS assistant secretary" who is purportedly acting on the instructions of USAA to assign the subject deed of trust, "together with the Note," from MERS as a nominee of USAA to GMAC. (See – LaSalle Bank N.A. v. Lamy, 12 Misc.3d 1191, 824 N.Y.S.2d 769 (N.Y.Sup.Ct.2006), "A nominee of the owner of a note and mortgage may not effectively assign the note and mortgage to another for want of an ownership interest in said note and mortgage by the nominee.") Thus, the purported "MERS assistant secretary," Anthony McLaughlin (who is, in fact, an employee of GMAC), has

9 10

12

13

11

1415

17

16

18

20

19

21

22

23

24

fraudulently and unlawfully transferred the subject deed of trust, "together with the Note," from MERS as a nominee of USAA to GMAC, in violation of NRS 111.010, (see generally – *Leyva v. National Default Servicing Corp.*, 255 P. 3d 1275 – Nev: Supreme Court 2011). In turn, GMAC used this sham MERS Assignment as the legal basis for executing and recording the following improper documents, in the Clark County Recorder's Office:

- Notice of Breach and Default and of Election to Cause Sale of Real Property Under Deed of Trust, recorded on February 2, 2011 as instrument number 201102020003157;
- Notice of Trustee's Sale, recorded on <u>June 21, 2012</u> as instrument number 201206210002950;
- Notice of Trustee's Sale, recorded on November 15, 2012 as instrument number 201211150002147;
- Substitution of Trustee, recorded on June 24, 2013 as instrument number 201306240000620;
- Notice of Breach and Default and of Election to Cause Sale of Real Property Under Deed of Trust, recorded on <u>August 15, 2013</u> as instrument number 201308150000693;
- Notice of Trustee's Sale, recorded on <u>February 25, 2014</u> as instrument number 201402250000850.
- GMAC (or on GMAC's behalf by OCWEN, Executive Trustee Services LLC and/or The Cooper Castle Law Firm, LLP); and they are all without just cause or legal merit in order to substantiate GMAC's repeated attempts to effect a non-judicial trustee's sale of the subject real property, in violation of NRS 107.080 et seq. Consequently, Plaintiff Martinez's only recourse to stop GMAC's repeated attempts to unlawfully effect a non-judicial trustee's sale of the subject real property, and to stop the continuing slander of title to the subject real property, was to file a civil action to quiet title in Clark County, Nevada. Plaintiff Martinez originally filed his civil action with the Eighth Judicial District Court in Clark County, Nevada, on March 21, 2014; but the case was removed by the Defendants to the U.S. District Court in Nevada, on April 14, 2014 (see U.S. District Court Case No. 2:14-CV-00567-RCJ-PAL) and is currently

being reviewed on appeal by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, since July 15, 2014 (see – U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit Case No. 14-16349).

JURISDICTION

(8) This Court has jurisdiction to hear this opposition and objection to omnibus motion pursuant to 28 §.U.S.C. 157 and 1334. However, this Court should exercise restraint in ruling on this omnibus motion, because the more appropriate venue to decide this matter should rest with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit – as it is a higher federal court, (see – U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit Case No. 14-16349). The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals was fully briefed on this Court's ruling regarding the prohibition of monetary claims against the Liquidating Trust, the Debtors, and/or GMAC under the approved bankruptcy plan of the Debtors; and the Ninth Circuit Court was also provided with a copy of this Court's order by counsel for GMAC. Accordingly, this Court should defer any decision on this matter to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals – which might rule in favor of the Liquidating Trust, the Debtors, and/or GMAC regarding any of Plaintiff Martinez's monetary claims against them.

MONETARY CLAIMS ARE, IN FACT, PERMITTED AGAINST THE LIQUIDATING TRUST, THE DEBTORS, AND/OR GMAC BY THIS COURT'S ORDER, FILED ON JULY 13, 2012 (DOCKET NO. 774)

(9) The Liquidating Trust has stated in the Omnibus Motion, that Plaintiff Martinez cannot pursue any monetary claims against the Liquidating Trust, the Debtors, and/or GMAC, because of this Court's confirmation order which was filed on December 11, 2013 (Docket No. 6065). Nevertheless, the Liquidating Trust, the Debtors, and/or GMAC have overlooked another order from this Court that was filed on July 13, 2012 (Docket No. 774) – which in turn, was also filed with the U.S. District Court in Nevada on or about May 6, 2014 (see – Case No.: 2:14-CV-00567-RCJ-PAL), by GMAC's counsel – R. Samuel Ehlers, Esq. (Nevada Bar No. 9313). On

12-12020-mg Doc 9575 Filed 01/29/16 Entered 02/01/16 16:34:16 Main Document

The Debtors shall be required to seek approval from the Court in order to

enter into and consummate any proposed settlement of a Claim with a settlement

5.

7. The Settlement Procedures are without prejudice to the right of the Debtors to seek an order of this Court approving additional or different procedures with respect to specific claims or categories of claims."

(Bold emphasis added by the Plaintiff; <u>Underline</u> emphasis in original).

amount in excess of \$100,000. * * *

against the Liquidating Trust, the Debtors, and/or GMAC, for their repeated, unlawful and fraudulent foreclosure related actions, which were committed by GMAC, or in the name of GMAC by its purported servicing agent, OCWEN. At the Liquidating Trust's sole discretion, it can negotiate a settlement with Plaintiff Martinez, to settle all of his claims against GMAC up to \$40,000.00, without any action or ruling required from this Court. But rather than seeking such a "compromise and settlement," the Liquidating Trust chose to use this Court to effect the outcome of *Martinez vs. USAA Federal Savings Bank*, et al., before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals can issue its ruling on this appellate case, (see – U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit Court Case No. 14-16349). This Court should not permit this "end-run" around the Ninth Circuit Court, and a final ruling on this matter should be deferred to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

(11) The Liquidating Trust is disingenuously asking this Court to grant the Omnibus Motion, in order to shield GMAC from the consequences of its improper and unlawful, foreclosure related actions – which were committed during the course of GMAC's Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. In essence, the Liquidating Trust is seeking to "white-wash" GMAC's

actions under the guise of enforcing the confirmation order of this Court, in order to preempt the outcome of pending litigation in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, (see – U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit Court Case No. 14-16349). In other words, GMAC has brazenly committed several acts of fraud and abuse of the bankruptcy code while maneuvering its way through the bankruptcy process. Now, the Liquidating Trust wishes to dupe this Court into believing that GMAC should be given blanket immunity for its on-going fraudulent actions, in order to evade the consequences of GMAC's unlawful actions, by duplicitously claiming that the Liquidating Trust is merely enforcing an order of this Court. These actions should shock the conscious of this Court, and compel it to DENY the Omnibus Motion, solely for this reason.

- However, even after doing so, GMAC continued to make several false claims and material misrepresentations concerning the title to the subject real property in the Clark County Recorder's Office, in order to effect an unlawful non-judicial trustee's sale of the subject real property, without becoming the *current* Note-holder and deed of trust beneficiary in violation of NRS 107.080 et seq. (See Hymas v. Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, Dist. Court, D. Nevada 2014, "To initiate a non-judicial foreclosure of an owner-occupied residence, "the party seeking foreclosure must demonstrate that it is both 'the current beneficiary of the deed of trust and the current holder of the promissory note.' Bergenfield v. Bank of Am., 302 P.3d 1141, 1143 (Nev. 2013)"). All of the following improper and unlawful documents were recorded in the Clark County Recorder's Office, after GMAC filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection:
 - (a) Notice of Trustee's Sale, recorded on June 21, 2012 as instrument number 201206210002950, where GMAC improperly and unlawfully attempts to non-judicially foreclose on the subject real property, without being the current Note-holder and deed of trust beneficiary;
 - (b) Notice of Trustee's Sale, recorded on November 15, 2012 as instrument

number 201211150002147, where once again, GMAC improperly and unlawfully attempts to non-judicially foreclose on the subject real property, without being the Noteholder and deed of trust beneficiary;

- (c) Substitution of Trustee, recorded on June 24, 2013 as instrument number 201306240000620, where GMAC improperly substitutes The Cooper Castle Law Firm, LLP as the current trustee of the subject deed of trust without being the beneficiary of said deed of trust, (see Weingartner v. Chase Home Finance, LLC, 702 F. Supp. 2d 1276 Dist. Court, D. Nevada 2010, "A possible defect in foreclosure remains when a note has been negotiated, and there is no evidence that the foreclosing trustee is the nominee of the current holder or that the foreclosing trustee was substituted by a nominee of the current holder.");
- (d) Notice of Breach and Default and of Election to Cause Sale of Real Property Under Deed of Trust, recorded on August 15, 2013 as instrument number 201308150000693, where once again, GMAC iniates a second non-judicial foreclosure proceeding against the subject real property, without acquiring any legal, equitable or pecuniary interest in the Note, and without becoming the current beneficiary of the subject deed of trust. (See Barrionuevo v. Chase Bank, N.A. (N.D.Cal. 2012) 885 F.Supp.2d 964, "Several courts have recognized the existence of a valid cause of action for wrongful foreclosure where a party alleged not to be the true beneficiary instructs the trustee to file a Notice of Default and initiate non-judicial foreclosure. (at p. 973.)"; see also Bergenfield v. Bank of Am., 302 P. 3d 1141 Nev: Supreme Court 2013, "Therefore, only when the note and deed of trust are held by the same party is foreclosure proper under NRS Chapter 107. Leyva v. Nat'l Default Servicing Corp., 127 Nev. ____, ___, 255 P.3d 1275, 1279 (2011).");
- (e) Notice of Trustee's Sale, recorded on February 25, 2014 as instrument number 201402250000850, where once again, GMAC improperly and unlawfully attempts to non-judicially foreclose on the subject real property, without being the current Note-holder and deed of trust beneficiary.
- GMAC, or in the name of GMAC by its purported servicing agent, OCWEN; and these improper documents and unlawful actions are all egregious violations of the Bankruptcy Code, and outrageous abuses of the protections afforded to debtors, thereunder. Accordingly, it would be inequitable for this Court to shield the Liquidating Trust, the Debtors, and/or GMAC from the consequences of their actions, when they have clearly shown a complete disregard for the Bankruptcy Code. Nor should this Court allow the Liquidating Trust, the Debtors, and/or

- Finally, Plaintiff Martinez did not discover the full extent of GMAC's fraudulent activity until March 2014, when Plaintiff Martinez hired the services of Certified Forensic Loan Auditors (hereafter, "CFLA"), to examine the loan and recorded documents in question; and to trace the path of ownership of the Note, from the point of origination by USAA on or about July 28, 2009, to where it purportedly resides as of this date (i.e., with GINNIE MAE as Trustee of the Securitized Trust, who claims to be the *current* Note-holder, and which directly contradicts GMAC's claim to be the *current* Note-holder, as stated in the AA by GMAC's purported servicing agent, OCWEN). Therefore, there was no reason for Plaintiff Martinez to file a Proof of Claim with this Court by the deadline in this case, because Plaintiff Martinez did not discover any of his causes of action until after CFLA presented its findings of fact to Plaintiff Martinez, in March 2014. Furthermore, since there has been no final judgment issued by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Martinez vs. USAA Federal Savings Bank, et al., then there is no monetary claim that Plaintiff Martinez can enforce against the Liquidating Trust, the Debtors, and/or GMAC. In other words, the Liquidating Trust is asking this Court to "put the cart before the horse" in the Omnibus Motion, by insisting that Plaintiff Martinez needed to file a Proof of Claim, before said claim is even discovered. This assertion by the Liquidating Trust is selfevidently, illogical and irrational; and equity demands that this Court disregard it completely. CFLA's findings of fact are discussed at length in the Property Securitization Analysis Report (hereafter, the "Report"), prepared on March 19, 2014, in the Affidavit of Chad D. Elrod, Esq., J.D. (hereafter, the "Elrod Affidavit"), and in the Affidavit of Michael Carrigan (hereafter, the "Carrigan Affidavit").
 - (15) For the record, CFLA, was founded in 2007 as the nation's only Bloomberg L.P.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Securitization Audit Report provider, specifically designed for litigation support by Andrew P. Lehman, J.D. CFLA has an "A+" rating with the Better Business Bureau, and an "AA" rating with the Business Consumer Alliance. CFLA has trained officers from the U.S. Attorney General's Office, Department of Corporations, Federal Trade Commission, Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Education, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. CFLA has hosted continuing education courses before the State Bars of Nevada, California, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Illinois, New York, and New Jersey. In addition, Chad D. Elrod Esq., J.D., is a licensed attorney (at Jackson & Elrod, LLP - 2200 N. Loop West, Suite 108, Houston, Texas, 77018 - State of Texas Bar Card: 24063917), and a graduate of The University of Houston – B.S. (2005), and the South Texas College of Law, J.D. (2008). Mr. Elrod is an expert witness in securitization analysis, and in the use and interpretation of the Bloomberg L.P. Professional Terminal licensed software, previously described. Mr. Elrod was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 2008, and he has also been admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of Texas. Thus, the information contained within the Report, Elrod Affidavit, and Carrigan Affidavit, are the factual basis for the allegations within this opposition and objection to the Motion; and the Report, Carrigan Affidavit, and Elrod Affidavit are hereby incorporated into this opposition and objection to the Motion, by reference thereto.

CONCLUSION

(16) Whatever shortcomings this Court may find in the formatting, wording, or expression of Plaintiff Martinez's arguments in this opposition and objection to the Omnibus Motion, are simply matters of form rather than of substance. Moreover, this Court should take notice that any inartful pleading of the facts and/or issues by a pro se litigant, such as Plaintiff

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Martinez, should be liberally construed in favor of said pro se litigant. In fact, the Supreme Court of the United States addressed this issue in *Hughes v. Rowe*, 449 US 5 – Supreme Court 1980, "Petitioner's complaint, like most prisoner complaints filed in the Northern District of Illinois, was not prepared by counsel. It is settled law that the allegations of such a complaint, 'however inartfully pleaded' are held 'to less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers' *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U. S. 519, 520 (1972). See also *Maclin v. Paulson*, 627 F. 2d 83, 86 (CA7 1980); *French v. Heyne*, 547 F. 2d 994, 996 (CA7 1976)."

(17) Likewise, under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 8(f) provides that, "pleadings shall be so construed as to do 'substantial justice.' We frequently have stated that [pro se] pleadings are to be given a liberal construction" (see – Baldwin County Welcome Center v. Brown 466 U.S. 147,104 S. Ct. 1723,80 L. Ed. 2d 196,52 U.S.L.W. 3751). Furthermore, the concept that pro se pleadings are to be given extra leeway was affirmed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Hebbe v. Pliler, 627 F. 3d 338 – Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit 2010, as follows:

"Because Hebbe is an inmate who proceeded *pro se*, his complaint 'must be held to less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers,' as the Supreme Court has reaffirmed since *Twombly*. See – Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 94, 127 S.Ct. 2197, 167 L.Ed.2d 1081 (2007) (per curiam). Iqbal incorporated the *Twombly* pleading standard and *Twombly* did not alter courts' treatment of pro se filings; accordingly, we continue to construe pro se filings liberally when evaluating them under Iqbal. While the standard is higher, our 'obligation' remains, 'where the petitioner is pro se, particularly in civil rights cases, to construe the pleadings liberally and to afford the petitioner the benefit of any doubt.' Bretz v. Kelman, 773 F.2d 1026, 1027 n. 1 (9th Cir. 1985) (en banc)." (Italics emphasis in the original).

(18) Based on all of the foregoing factual points, legal citations, and on equity considerations, Plaintiff Martinez has presented sufficient legal and equitable grounds to this Court to <u>DENY</u> the Omnibus Motion, and to permit Plaintiff Martinez to pursue monetary

12-12020-mg Doc 9575 Filed 01/29/16 Entered 02/01/16 16:34:16 Main Document